

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has introduced a scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of militants in the North-East.

(b) As per latest information available, 2100 militants have surrendered under this Scheme. 437 surrendered militants have been trained/undergoing training under this scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Scheme envisages only assistance for self-employment training and the surrendered militants are to apply for self-employment schemes as per normal rules applicable.

Cross-border crimes in North-East

1907. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stand taken by Government of Bhutan against the ULFA and NDFB camps in its territory;

(b) what are the concrete steps taken by Government to stop cross-border crimes in the North-East; and

(c) the steps taken to seal the Indo-Bhutan border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHIR I.D. SWAMI): (a) The presence of militants on Bhutanese territory has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concern on this issue. The Government of Bhutan has reiterated that they would not allow their territory to be misused against the interests of India. The 78th session of the National Assembly in Bhutan passed a resolution on July 4, 2000 reiterating its decisions of 77th session to resolve the problem by a peaceful dialogue with leaders of militants to leave Bhutan and in event such dialogue does not succeed, authorising the Government to use

military option to evict the militants from Bhutan. India and Bhutan remain in a constant touch to find a solution to this issue and are cooperating with each other in this regard.

(b) A series of measures have been taken to stop cross border crimes in the North East. These include, *inter alia*, construction of border roads, border fencing, raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outposts towers, provision of surveillance equipments including night vision devices etc.

(c) Surveillance has been stepped up on the Indo-Bhutan border and the situation is monitored on a regular basis.

Torture of Dalits

1908. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the incidents in which the truck driver and others belonging to dalit classes were recently tortured by the Bihar and U.P. Government Ministers and if so, the results of the inquiries; and

(b) what steps have been and are being taken to effectively prevent continuing atrocities by those in power on the dalits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Two incidents of torture of truck drivers—one in Bihar and the other in Uttar Pradesh by the Ministers in State Governments have come to notice through newspaper reports. These two cases are isolated instances, and cannot be construed as continuing atrocities on Dalits by those in power.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are State Subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government